

REMARKS

Claim 17, 20, 26 – 28, 30, 38, 39, and 42 have been amended, claims 45 - 47 have been cancelled, and new claims 48 - 50 have been added. Thus, claims 17-18, 20, 26-28, 30, 31, 33-44, 48 - 50 are currently pending and presented for examination. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The amendments and new claims are presented for the sole purpose of lending greater specificity and/or clarity to the claimed subject matter and expediting prosecution to conclusion.

Support for the amendments and new claims may be found, for example, in the specification paragraphs **0014, 0019, 0024, 0028, 0030, and 0040**.

Response to Rejections Under Section 103:

Claims 17, 20, 26-28, 30, 33-39 and 44-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are obvious over *Golla et al* (USPN 6,587,874) in view of *O'Toole et al.* (USPN 6,345,294). Claims 18, 31 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are obvious over *Golla* in view of *O'Toole* and *Skemer et al.* (USPN 6,570,849). Claims 41-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are obvious over *Golla* in view of *O'Toole, Skemer, and Choudhry* (USPN 6,442,602).

Applicant's Amended Claim 17 recites (emphasis added):

A method for configuring a device in a data network, the data network comprising an address server, one or more devices requiring configuration, and one or more parameter servers, comprising:

storing a domain name for a device in the device;

storing in **an address server** on the data network a data record comprising an **IP address of a particular parameter server** of the one or more parameter servers, wherein the particular parameter server is **associated with the domain name** for the device;

transmitting a request message from the device to the address server, wherein the request message includes the domain name;
ascertaining by the address server the data record associated with the domain name in the received message;
receiving a response message from the address server by the device, the **response message comprising the IP address of the particular parameter server** associated with the domain name from the data record;
setting up a connection to the particular parameter server by the device, the device using the IP address of the particular parameter server extracted from the response message to set up the connection; and
receiving parameters by the device from the particular parameter server, wherein the parameters are used to configure the device.

The invention as set forth in the above-noted claim 17 essentially describes an address server that stores “domain names” of devices as data records associated with “IP addresses of parameter servers” for configuring that device. Thus, the device can look to the address server, not to get its own DNS information, but to get the address for a particular parameter server and communicate directly with that parameter server.

Golla, on the other hand, describes a scheme to configure client network devices by initially obtaining the IP addresses for the device, doing a DNS query to resolve the devices own name, doing a TFTP broadcast (i.e., across the entire network) for a configuration file for the device name. A TFTP server responds to this request by sending out the “hostname_config” file to the network device (*an actual file transfer – not a response message*). The hostname_config file contains information about the closest LDAP server, the username, and password. The device then communicates with the LDAP server 26, constructing a LDAP request for its configuration parameters. When LDAP server 26 receives this request, it obtains the appropriate configuration parameters for device 12 from its LDAP directory and associated data structures. It then sends a reply to network device 12 including the requested configuration parameters.

Unlike *Golla*, which requires the device to broadcast a request to the entire network trying to find *a file* that has information about the server which has the device’s configuration information, the present invention quickly provides the particular address to the device (*in a*

message) using an address server so it can then go directly to the parameter server for its parameters, thereby avoiding unnecessary network traffic caused by broadcast messages, file transfers, and the like. It can readily be seen that *Golla* does not describe or teach using an address server to store the address of the parameter server for a device associated with the devices own domain name. Moreover, since address serves are designed resolve a domain name with its own address, not the address of another device/server, it would not be obvious to modify¹ the DNS server of *Golla* to resolve a devices domain name to another address. Additionally, because the device in *Golla* does not know where to send its message looking for configuration information, the device in *Golla* must broadcast across the entire network its request. Moreover, the response to this broadcast message in *Golla* is a file sent across the network, further burdening the network.

The Examiner further states that it “would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify *Golla* to include a step of inputting a domain name in the configuring appliance as taught by *O’Toole* in order to properly connect to the server contains all the configuration information of the configuring appliance”. *O’Toole*, however, stores the DNS name for the appliance registry (server) having the configuration and not of the device requesting the configuration (as previously submitted, address serves are designed resolve a domain name with its own address, not the address of another device). Thus, *O’Toole* DNS name is not the domain name of the device and could not produce the same result.

In view of the above, independent claim 17 is patentable. Independent claims 26 and 30 which have similar limitations are also patentable.

Furthermore the dependent claims, including new claims 48 – 50, are also patentable at least based on their dependency as well as based on their own merits.

¹ “If the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious” MPEP 2143 (section VI).

For example, with respect to new claim 48, both a fictitious domain name² and a real domain name are stored, and the address server responds with the IP address of the particular parameter server associated with either the fictitious domain name or the real domain name, increasing the probability that the IP address of a particular parameter server will be sent to the device. The art of record does not describe or teach this limitation.

With respect to new claim 49, “a fictitious domain name comprising the generally known domain name of the device is stored by the manufacturer in the device and wherein the fictitious domain name is also stored in the address server and associated with a particular parameter server”. The art of record does not describe or teach this limitation.

With respect to new claim 50, “a real domain name is stored in the device in addition to the fictitious domain name” with reference to Claim 49. The art of record does not describe or teach this limitation.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the Section 103 rejections.

² Virtual subdomains described in *Choudhry* should not be confused or equated with the fictitious domain names of the present invention in that virtual subdomains are special cases of subdomains, which may or may not actually refer to a separate subdomain server from the domain server, but may refer to a directory or other software facility on the domain server.

Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance and request that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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